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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Single copies free to persons in the U. S. from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., Room 5922. Phone: DUdley 8-2445

Indian Agricultural Production Sets Record in 1959. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 5-60. 8 pp.

U. S. Winter Citrus: Outlook for Competition in Europe. Foreign Agriculture Circular FCF 1-60. 16 pp.

Foreign Agriculture magazine, March 1960.

U. S. Bean and Pea Exports High in 1959; Beans Set Record. Foreign Agriculture Circular FDP 2-60. 3 pp.

U. S. Livestock Trade Up in 1959. Foreign Agriculture Circular FLM 2-60. 7 pp.

U. S. Tobacco Exports Drop Slightly in 1959. Foreign Agriculture Circular FT 1-60. 14 pp.

Sharp Volume Rise in U. S. Agricultural Exports. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 6-60. 3 pp.

Brazil's Agricultural Economy, 1959. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 7-60. 6 pp.

Exports of U. S. Fats and Oils Under Title I, Public Law 480. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 6-60. 3 pp.

World Castor Bean Production Down But Expected To Rise in 1960. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 7-60. 21 pp.

Status of Cotton Purchase Authorizations Under Title I, Public Law 480. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 3-60. 3 pp.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS LOWER IN JANUARY

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in January 1960, at 23.1 million pounds, were 16 percent below those in January 1959. The value, at $16.9 million, also was down 16 percent.

Exports of allkinds of tobacco except Burley, Green River, and cigar wrapper were below a year earlier. Flue-cured, at 16.3 million pounds, was 24 percent lower. But Burley exports of 3.3 million pounds more than doubled those of January 1959.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the first 7 months of the 1960 fiscal year totaled 336 million pounds--down 3.4 percent from 348 million in the corresponding period of fiscal 1959. The value of fiscal 1960 exports, through January, was 2.8 percent below the same period a year earlier.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by types and export weight, January 1959 and 1960, with percentage change

Type	January		Percent change	January		Percent change
	1959	1960		1959	1960	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	Percent
Flue-cured	21,439	16,313	-23.9	16,008	11,701	-26.9
Burley	1,512	3,334	+120.5	1,324	2,775	+109.6
Dk.-fired Ky.-Tenn.	2,164	1,576	-27.2	936	676	-27.8
Va. fire-cured 1/	631	365	-42.2	400	236	-41.0
Maryland	496	361	-27.2	397	279	-29.7
Green River	112	162	+44.6	85	85	---
One Sucker	169	23	-86.4	68	13	-80.9
Black Fat, etc	391	193	-50.6	346	132	-61.8
Cigar wrapper	186	424	+128.0	364	903	+148.1
Cigar binder	138	80	-42.0	95	80	-15.8
Cigar filler	14	8	-42.9	8	3	-62.5
Other	217	233	+7.4	92	44	-52.2
Total	27,469	23,072	-16.0	20,123	16,927	-15.9

1/ Includes sun-cured.

Bureau of the Census.

U. S. exports of tobacco products in January 1960 were valued at $7.0 million-up 11 percent from January 1959. Shipments of all categories except smoking tobacco in packages were larger in January this year than a year ago. Cigarette exports, at 1,442 million pieces, were up 6.8 percent; smoking tobacco in bulk was up 65.7 percent; and cigars and cheroots were 144.5 percent larger.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January 1959 and 1960 with percentage change

Products and value	January 1959	January 1960	Percent change
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces)	582	1,423	+144.5
Cigarettes (million pieces)	1,350	1,442	+6.8
Chewing and snuff (1,000 pounds)	69	102	+47.8
Smoking tobacco in pkgs. (1,000 pounds)	48	43	-10.4
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000) pounds)	440	729	+65.7
Total declared value (million dollars)	6.3	7.0	+11.1

Bureau of the Census.

NEW CIGARETTE INTRODUCED IN MOROCCO

The Moroccan Tobacco Monopoly announced in early February the introduction of "Riad" a new brand of cigarettes, similar to American-type blended. The first American-type cigarette to be manufactured in Morocco, the new brand contains approximately 35 percent U. S. flue-cured, 20 percent Moroccan flue-cured, 25 percent Moroccan Burley, and 20 percent oriental leaf. It will retail for the equivalent of about 20 U. S. cents per package.

ITALY'S TOBACCO IMPORTS UP, EXPORTS DOWN, IN 1959

Italy's imports of unmanufactured tobacco, according to official trade statistics, totaled 14.7 million pounds in January-September 1959, compared with 12.0 million in the first 9 months of 1958. Exports, however, were below those for January-September 1958--17.0 million pounds, compared with 19.0 million.

Common Market countries increased their total imports of Italian leaf from 7.8 million pounds in January-September 1958 to 9.1 million in the corresponding period of 1959. Italian leaf enjoys a preferential tariff in the other Common Market countries.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Italy, imports and exports, January-September 1958 and 1959

Origin or destination	Imports		Exports	
	January-September		January-September	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Common Market:				
Germany, West	---	---	5,025	6,966
Netherlands	---	---	2,593	2,121
Belgium	---	---	203	---
Total	---	---	7,821	9,087
Other Countries:				
Bulgaria	---	1,728	---	---
Greece	5,076	7,759	---	---
Turkey	3,198	3,217	---	---
Egypt	---	---	1,014	---
Switzerland	---	---	346	2,678
Yugoslavia	2,138	2,028	---	---
United Kingdom	---	---	552	---
United States	1,548	---	2,469	1,807
Other	---	---	6,761	3,434
Grand total	11,960	14,732	18,963	17,006

Source: Statistica mensile del comercio con l'estero.

U. S. TALLOW EXPORTS TO SPAIN
RISE AS RESULT OF IMPORT LICENSING

Since Spain resumed issurance of tallow import licenses in July 1959, more and more U. S. tallow has been moving into that country. Ample supplies and low prices will assure the United States a major share of this market. Total exports of inedible tallow and greases to Spain in 1959 were 10 million pounds, of which 9 million were shipped in September-December.

Tallow import licenses issued by Spain during July-January totaled about 41 million pounds. Trade sources estimate that the volume of tallow in millions of pounds which could be imported within these licenses from the major sources are as follows: United States (24.4), France (4.7), West Germany (3.9), Netherlands (3.9), and Belgium (2.8).

DENMARK REMOVES CANNED FRUIT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Effective March 1, all Danish restrictions on imports of canned peaches, apricots, pineapple, grapefruit sections, and citrus salad were removed. The action did not apply to fruit juices.

U. S. IMPORTS OF LAMB FROM ICELAND DOUBLE

The United States replaced the United Kingdom in 1959 as the principal export market for Iceland's lamb and mutton.

U. S. imports of 2.6 million pounds of Icelandic lamb and mutton were more than double the 1958 imports of 1.1 million pounds. Exports from Iceland were encouraged by relatively high U. S. prices and the needed for dollars in Iceland.

Sheep-raising is Iceland's most important agricultural enterprise. Present sheep numbers are about 800,000; however, there is considerable potential for increased production. Numbers have been increasing steadily since 1956, following a successful campaign to stamp out "lung disease." The Icelanders believe that they can maintain about 2 million head of sheep. Increased exports of lamb and mutton may be expected, the destination depending chiefly on the spread between U. S. and U. K. prices.

As Iceland is one of the relatively few countries of the world where foot-and-mouth disease does not exist, it is able to export chilled and frozen meat to the United States. Iceland's exportable surplus of beef is relatively small, however, with only 4,976 pounds going to the United States in 1959.

MUTTON AND LAMB: Exports from Iceland, 1956-59

Year	To United States 1/	To United Kingdom 2/	Total 3/
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1956	22	4,665	5,106
1957	21	3,267	5,172
1958	1,146	4,429	7,055
1959	2,566	86	4/

1/ U. S. Bureau of Census. 2/ Commonwealth Economic Committee. 3/ Official trade data of Iceland. 4/ Not available.

U. S. LOSING VARIETY MEAT MARKET IN AUSTRIA

The United States is losing its market for variety meats in Austria to Canada and Eastern European countries.

Austrian imports of fresh and frozen variety meats from all sources increased from 1.5 million pounds in 1958 to 6.5 million pounds in 1959. At the same time, imports from the United States dropped sharply from 354,000 pounds to only 51,000 pounds. The sharp decrease in purchases from the United States was during a period when U. S. prices were declining and U. S. exports to most other countries were rising.

A basic Austrian trade policy is to direct foreign purchases to adjacent Eastern European countries in order to use up its eastern clearing balances. Austrian foreign trade controls on livestock and meat protect the industry from foreign competition and help maintain and stabilize prices.

Austrian imports of variety meats from Canada rose sharply during 1959, as a result of more competitive Canadian prices. If hog cholera were eliminated in the United States, pork variety meat exports to this area would probably increase.

VARIETY MEATS 1/: Austrian imports by country of origin, 1958-59

Country	1958	1959 2/
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Canada	778	2,032
Yugoslavia	--	856
Bulgaria	44	843
Rumania	11	755
Hungary	289	742
Czechoslovakia	8	533
Poland	--	407
Denmark	17	173
U. S. S. R.	--	76
New Zealand	--	11
United States	354	51
Netherlands	1	--
Total	1,502	6,479

1/ Fresh, chilled, or frozen. 2/ Preliminary.

Austrian Central Statistical Bureau.

CUBAN SUGAR OUTPUT AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

As of February 15, a total of 160 out of 161 Cuban sugar centrals were grinding cane of the 1960 harvest. Production through February 15 totaled 1,592,718 short tons of sugar and 67,371,178 gallons of blackstrap molasses.

On February 15, 1959, only 93 of the 161 centrals were in operation, with a total production of 711,626 short tons of sugar and 29,264,478 gallons of blackstrap.

WORLD WOOL CONSUMPTION AT ALLTIME HIGH

World wool consumption, as estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee, reached an alltime high of 3,180 million pounds, clean basis, in 1959. This is 12 percent above 1958 and 7 percent above the 1957 record.

The consumption increase was due in part to the relatively low prices paid for raw wool during 1958 and in early 1959, and also to increased demand and a replenishing of inventories by most segments of the wool industry following the textile recession of 1958. The step-up in consumption probably reduced carryover stocks slightly at the end of 1959. World production and consumption appear to be nearly in balance, and prices are expected to continue relatively stable for the rest of the current season.

All of the 10 major countries which report quarterly consumption showed increases in 1959. Japan, the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, and the United Kingdom showed the greatest increases. Total consumption for these 10 countries during 1959 was up 17 percent from 1958 and 23 percent above the 1951-55 average. Overall consumption began to rise in the last quarter of 1958 and continued during 1959. During the fourth quarter of 1959, consumption was up 8 percent from the seasonally low third quarter, but was only 2 percent above the second quarter. Compared with a year earlier, the sharpest gains were in Japan, Italy, and France.

U. S. mill use in 1959 was up 27 percent. However, it was still 4 percent below the 1951-55 average, as the large increase in consumption of carpet wool was more than offset by a decrease in apparel wool. For the last quarter of 1959, total U. S. consumption was about the same as a year earlier.

Wool consumption in the Sino-Soviet Bloc countries continued to rise sharply in 1959. Estimated mill use was 11 percent above 1958 and 73 percent above the 1951-55 average.

WOOL: Estimated world consumption, clean basis, average 1951-55, annual 1957-59, quarterly October 1958-December 1959, with percent change

Area	Average 1951-55	Annual 1957	Annual 1958	Annual 1959	Percent change 1959 from 1958	Quarterly 1958 Oct.-Dec.	Quarterly 1959 Jan.-Mar.	Quarterly 1959 Apr.-June	Quarterly 1959 July-Sept. 2/	Quarterly 1959 Oct.-Dec. 1/	Percent change Oct.-Dec. 1959 from Oct.-Dec. 1958
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Percent	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Percent
United States 3/:											
Apparel	328	241	217	267	+23	58.6	65.5	72.8	68.1	60.2	+3
Carpet	121	128	119	164	+38	41.3	45.2	40.9	39.0	39.3	-5
Total 4/	457	378	345	439	+27	101.9	112.7	115.7	109.1	101.5	---
United Kingdom	440	481	444	509	+15	120.9	126.7	132.6	117.4	132.6	+10
France	233	310	266	267	---	64.0	51.9	73.5	61.7	79.5	+24
Japan	105	188	161	226	+40	43.0	47.2	58.8	57.5	62.3	+45
Italy	117	161	156	177	+13	39.7	38.3	43.9	45.1	49.9	+26
Germany, West	144	181	152	163	+7	41.1	34.4	37.9	44.4	46.5	+13
Belgium	63	80	70	77	+10	18.1	18.1	19.1	19.3	20.3	+12
Australia	51	69	63	73	+16	15.5	14.8	18.8	19.9	19.0	+23
Netherlands	25	26	21	25	+19	6.0	5.8	6.8	6.0	6.2	+3
Sweden	13	10	10	11	+10	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	---
Total (10 countries)	1,603	1,883	1,687	1,967	+17	452.7	452.6	509.9	482.9	520.5	+15
Soviet Bloc 5/	434	614	673	750	+11						
Other countries	465	493	502	505	+1						
World total 6/	2,502	2,953	2,829	3,180	+12						

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Scoured basis. 4/ Includes estimated annual consumption of 8 million pounds in other uses. 5/ Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Communist China. 6/ Includes estimates of U.S. consumption on clean basis.

Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee and International Wool Textile Organization.

MOROCCAN COOPERATIVE UNION TO AID CRIN VEGETAL EXPORTS

The "Moroccan Cooperative Union for Crin Vegetal" was organized in Casablanca, Morocco, in November 1959 in hopes of stabilizing the export price of the fiber. The non-government group includes practically all Moroccan fiber exporters, and is supported by a tax on exported fiber. It works closely with export organizations both in and out of government.

Moroccan exports of crin vegetal total close to 100,000 tons a year. The fiber is used principally as stiff stuffing material.

ECUADOR'S 1959 COCOA EXPORTS UP, COFFEE DOWN

Cocoa exports from Ecuador in 1959 totaled 62.8 million pounds, compared with 49.5 million in 1958. This represented an increase of 26.9 percent in volume, but only 5.3 percent in value.

Coffee exports declined to 396,083 bags in 1959 from 505,266 bags in 1958. The drop was largely the result of unseasonable rains in the coffee-producing Province of Manabi.

A rich new area for coffee and cocoa cultivation is expected to be opened up when the Santo Domingo-Quevedo highway is completed. The government has now completed arrangements to finance its construction.

CHILE'S LENTIL HARVEST UP 30 PERCENT

Chile's 1960 lentil harvest, nearing completion, is estimated at about 400,000 bags. This is 30 percent above 1959 and 63 percent above the 1950-54 average.

Chile is one of the world's major exporters of lentils, particularly of the larger sizes. Of this year's crop, about 240,000 bags are expected to be large lentils, 110,000 medium size, and 50,000 small.

About 360,000 bags are likely to be available for export, compared with 350,000 exported last year and an average of 220,000 in 1950-54. The government has set an export quota of 44,000 bags of small lentils for 1960. The larger sizes can be exported freely. Domestic consumption averages about 35,000 bags per year, usually the smaller sizes.

West Germany normally takes two-thirds of Chile's lentil exports, and the Netherlands and the United States each about 10 percent. However, the United States has now banned imports of Latin American lentils because of Uromyces fabae (rust) disease, which has severely damaged Argentine and Chilean lentils in recent years.

THAILAND SHIPPED LESS RICE IN 1959; PRICES LOWER

Rice exports from Thailand in 1959, at 24,262,000 cwt. (of 100 pounds), were moderately below the 25,132,000 cwt. exported in 1958, and were the lowest since 1948. Exportable supplies available in 1960 are officially estimated at 1,300,000 metric tons (28,660,000 cwt.). This would allow a larger and more normal carryover at the end of 1960 than was held at the close of 1959.

Highlights of the 1959 trade were a sharp increase in exports to the Arabian Peninsula and a continuing decline in shipments to Indonesia, Hong Kong, and European countries. The principal destinations were in Asia, as follows (in 1,000 cwt.): Malaya, 9,376; Hong Kong, 3,584; Indonesia, 1,489; British Borneo, 1,215; and other Asia, 539.

Exports to Africa came to 1,408,000 cwt., including 186,000 to Mauritius. Those to Europe, at 1,115,000 cwt., were less than half the 2,333,000 cwt. shipped there in 1958. The European destinations were (in 1,000 cwt.): the Netherlands, 557; United Kingdom, 437; West Germany, 77; and Belgium-Luxembourg, 44.

Average prices of all grades of milled rice declined in 1959. The sharpest drops were in prices of white broken and parboiled rice, which declined 18 and 12 percent, respectively, below the average 1958 prices for comparable grades.

RICE: Thai average export prices, f.o.b. Bangkok, 1958 and 1959

Type of rice	Average export price				Percent change
	1958 1/		1959 2/		
	£ per M. ton	Dollars per cwt.	£ per M. ton	Dollars per cwt.	Percent
White milled	52-16	6.73	49-00	6.24	-7.3
White broken	35-10	4.52	29-00	3.69	-18.4
Cargo	48-16	6.22	46-00	5.86	-5.8
Parboiled	49-0	6.25	43-05	5.51	-11.8
Glutinous	37-10	4.78	44-08	5.66	+18.4

1/ Based on average exchange rate of $2,8098 per pound sterling.
2/ Based on average exchange rate of $2.8088 per pound sterling.

A decline in rice export prices in early February 1960 was attributed to a slackening of demand after shipments under the Indonesian contract were completed. It also was due in part to the Thai Government's reduction of export premiums as of December 30, 1959.

COSTA RICA'S RICE
REQUIREMENTS RISE

Even though Costa Rica harvested a record rice crop this year, its import needs are estimated at 100,000 cwt. of milled rice.

The 1959-60 harvest is estimated at 1,065,000 cwt. (of 100 pounds) of rough rice, compared with 989,000 cwt. in 1958-59 and an average of 852,000 cwt. from 1950-51 through 1954-55. Government price supports, mechanization, and use of improved seed varieties have contributed to the production increase.

Rice imports in January-November 1959, the latest period for which data are available, were 167,855 cwt., of which Ecuador supplied 86,548 cwt., and the United States, 81,303 cwt.

CAMBODIA AUTHORIZES
RICE EXPORTS

Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce on January 25 authorized the export of 150,000 metric tons (3.3 million cwt.) of milled and broken rice from February 1 to June 30. The authorization is for 100,000 tons (2.2 million cwt.) of white rice and 50,000 tons (1.1 million cwt.) of 50 percent white brokens.

This action, together with the lowering of official prices at the beginning of 1960, should aid exports. The 1959-60 crop reportedly was large enough to permit exports of 275,000 tons (6.1 million cwt.) of rice in terms of milled in 1960.

CHILE'S EXPORTABLE BEAN
SUPPLY LARGER

Chile's bean harvest now underway is expected to provide 600,000 bags of beans for export: 400,000 Arroz beans (comparable to U. S. pea beans); 130,000 Cristales (comparable to U. S. Great Northern); and the balance red beans.

The total crop is now estimated at 1.7 million bags, compared with 1.3 million in 1959, and a 1954-58 average of 1.8 million.

Export data for 1959, though incomplete, show exports of 440,000 bags (100-lb.) during January-October. In 1958, exports totaled 331,000 bags. The 1950-54 average was 532,000, and the pre-World War II average was 700,000.

Half of Chile's exports usually go to the United Kingdom and lesser quantities to other European countries, Cuba, the United States, Canada, and Australia. All of these markets except Cuba take white beans.

Bean prices f.o.b. Valparaiso, for future delivery, were quoted in February at $6.15 per cwt. for Arroz, $8.20 for Cristales, $6.90 for Red Mexicans (comparable to U. S. small red beans), and $12.95 for red kidneys.

DURBAN TO BECOME IMPORTANT FRUIT EXPORT PORT

Durban, on the East Coast of South Africa, is expected to become an important fruit-shipping port in 1961. A new precooling plant now being built will be ready to handle fruit from the 1960-61 crop.

The expected growth of the port will be at the expense of Capetown, which has been handling virtually all fruit shipments from the Union. Shipment through Capetown has meant a long rail haul for growers of the Eastern Transvaal and Natal. Durban will now undoubtedly handle most shipments from these areas.

1959 TURKISH FILBERT CROP ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

The 1959 Turkish filbert crop is still estimated at 77,000 short tons, unshelled equivalent. The 1958 harvest amounted to 110,000 tons, while average production (1952-56) is 90,000 tons. Turkish production alternates between large and small harvests.

FILBERTS: Turkey, supply and distribution, unshelled basis, estimated 1958-59 and forecast 1959-60

Item	Year beginning September 1	
	1958 (Estimated)	1959 (Forecast)
	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks, Sept. 1	24,000	9,000
Production	110,000	77,000
Total supply	134,000	86,000
Exports	98,000	71,000
Domestic consumption	27,000	10,500
Ending stocks, Aug. 31	9,000	4,500
Total distribution	134,000	86,000

Filbert exports for the 1959-60 season are expected to reach 71,000 tons, unshelled equivalent. Through mid-December, registered export sales totaled about 65,000 tons, unshelled equivalent (almost all Turkish exports are kernels). Exports after the last of December are usually small. Exports in 1958-59 totaled 98,000 tons, unshelled basis.

About February 1, Turkish filbert stocks held by cooperatives were estimated at about 5,000 tons, unshelled equivalent. London sources are estimating total stocks at about 9,000 tons unshelled.

Shelled filbert export prices weakened during February, dropping from 43.8 cents the last of January to 41.0 cents per pound (f.o.b. Turkey) in late February, but have since strengthened.

FINLAND'S WINTER RAPESEED ACREAGE CUT SHARPLY

Farmers in Finland planted only 23,600 acres to rapeseed last fall, a decline of almost half from the 45,340 acres harvested early in 1959, but somewhat greater than the 21,745 acres harvested in 1958. The decline is due to poor moisture conditions because of extended dry weather last summer and fall.

Production of rapeseed in 1959 totaled 25,350 short tons, while the outturn from the 1958 acreage was 14,330 tons.

U.S. EXPORTS OF SOYBEANS, EDIBLE OILS, AND OILSEED MEALS CONTINUE HEAVY THROUGH JANUARY

Record volumes of soybeans and oilseed meals were exported from the United States during October-January of 1959-60. Shipments of edible oils, although somewhat above those of the previous year, were 30 percent below the record October-January 1956-57 exports.

Soybean exports, at a new high of 60.9 million bushels, were up 13.5 million bushels from the previous October-January record set last season. Practically all of the increase is attributed to larger shipments to northern Europe, where a heavy demand for oilseed meals, as well as edible oils, makes soybeans attractive to processors.

Edible oil exports (cottonseed and soybean oils) were up 42 million pounds from the volume in the first 4 months of the previous marketing year, but were well below the record 500.2 million pounds shipped in October-January 1956-57. Although shipments in the first few months of this year under Title I of Public Law 480 have been lagging far behind those last year, they have been more than offset by larger dollar sales, mainly of cottonseed oil. West Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are buying far more U.S. oil this year, largely because supplies of African peanut oil are reduced, and the competitive position of U.S. oils has greatly improved pricewise.

Exports of oilseed meals in the first third of this marketing year were at a record level, and were only 16 percent below total shipments in the 12 preceding months. Soybean meal shipments were up by more than half, linseed meal shipments increased fourfold, and exports of cottonseed meal were 25 times larger than those of October-January 1958-59. Continued heavy buying in northern Europe, in addition to larger U.S. supplies, accounts for the record volume of exports. Prices for oilcakes and meals dropped considerably in February.

SOYBEANS, EDIBLE OILS, AND OILSEED CAKES AND MEALS: United States exports, year beginning October 1, 1957 and 1958, October-January 1958-59 and 1959-60

Item	1957-58	1958-59	October-January	
			1958-59 1/	1959-60 1/
	Million bushels			
Soybeans	85.5	110.1	47.4	60.9
	Million pounds			
Edible oils:				
Soybean	804.0	930.4	255.1	147.9
Cottonseed	248.0	404.2	68.8	218.0
Total	1,052.0	1,334.6	323.9	365.9
Oil equivalent of soybeans	938.9	1,208.6	519.9	668.7
	1,000 short tons			
Cakes and meals:				
Soybean	300.0	512.2	202.2	318.8
Cottonseed	7.2	27.3	4.7	114.9
Linseed	5.9	31.2	12.5	47.0
Total 2/	316.3	581.0	220.6	487.4
Meal equivalent of soybeans	2,001.0	2,609.0	1,122.0	1,431.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes peanut cake and meal and small quantities of other cakes and meals.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

CUBA BUYING COTTON MILL EQUIPMENT FROM JAPAN

According to Cuban press reports, the Government of Cuba recently signed a $550,000 contract with a Japanese firm for the purchase of 15,200 cotton spindles. The spindles will be used in a government cotton-spinning mill to be established in Gibara, Oriente Province.

INDIA ALLOWS ADDITIONAL COTTON IMPORTS

On February 16, the Government of India announced an additional import quota of 50,000 bales of 400 pounds gross (equivalent to about 41,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) of cotton stapling 1-1/16 inches and above. These imports will be allowed from any country. Half of this quota must be imported by May 31, 1960.

Total cotton imports allowed thus far for the 1959-60 season (August-July) are 850,000 bales of 400 pounds gross weight (equivalent to about 694,000 bales of 500 pounds gross).

PARAGUAY'S COTTON PRODUCTION CONTINUES DOWNTREND

Cotton production in Paraguay this season (1959-60) continued the downtrend of recent years.

The current crop, estimated at around 40,000 bales (500 pounds gross), is down 11 percent from the 1958-59 crop of 45,000 bales, and is 23 percent below average production of 52,000 bales in the past 5 seasons. The downtrend is attributed largely to unfavorable climatic conditions, and to price uncertainties.

Smaller domestic supplies will make less cotton available for export this season. Paraguay exported 35,000 bales in 1958-59. Stocks at the end of this season also may be below the estimated 14,000 bales on hand August 1, 1959.

Cotton consumption in Paraguay during 1959-60 probably will be around the 1958-59 level of 16,000 bales.

BRAZIL'S SOYBEAN PRODUCTION EXPANDING RAPIDLY

Brazil's 1960 soybean crop, harvested from February through May, is expected to be about 8.1 million bushels from approximately 383,000 acres. This will be over one-third larger than the revised unofficial estimate of 5.9 million bushels harvested from about 289,000 acres in 1959.

The sharp increases from 1959 in both acreage and production are due to relatively good prices, industry encouragement, and disappointment with wheat prices and yields in recent years (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 5, 1959). Moreover, yields this year are expected to be higher than in 1959, when they were reduced by dry weather.

It is likely that rapid expansion will continue, because of (1) high prices; (2) a tight domestic vegetable oil situation; (3) the placement of soybeans and soybean products on the list of commodities that may be exported at the free-market rate; (4) excessive crushing capacity and consequently strong domestic industry demand for soybeans; (5) a growing demand for the byproducts by the domestic livestock industry; (6) a probable shift away from wheat by Rio Grande do Sul producers, who have had three successive wheat-crop failures; and (7) some state and federal government encouragement of soybean production without the governmental interference which tends to discourage production of some other commodities in Brazil.

The rate of expansion could be increased even more if harvesting machinery should become more readily available in such areas as Sao Paulo, where output is limited by lack of mechanization.

Disposition of the 1959 soybean crop is estimated roughly as follows: 1.7 million bushels exported (trade estimate); 3.1 million crushed; and 1.1 million for seed, feed, and loss. The trade reports at least 16,500 short tons of soybean cake exported to Europe. Disposition of the 1960 crop is forecast as follows: 1.7 million bushels available for export; 5.3 million for crushing; and 1.1 million for seed, feed, and loss.

Despite the tight vegetable oil situation and strong industrial demand for soybeans, exports this year will probably be close to the 1959 level. This is explained by the attraction of exporting at the free-market rate, the desire to force up prices paid by domestic buyers, and the resulting pressure from producer groups. Moreover, the high cost of transporting soybeans and soybean products from Rio Grande do Sul to the larger consumer centers of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro tend to favor exportation. On the other hand, the strong domestic demand probably will cause the Bank of Brazil to refuse to issue export licenses for soybean oil and may limit exports of soybeans and soybean meal.

Because of the substantial increase in prices of vegetable oils and mixed feeds, consumer groups (especially those interested in peanuts and cottonseed) have asked the government to prohibit exports of oilseeds and oilseed cake and meal. No definite action has been taken on these requests, but continued pressure might result in the prohibition of exports of these commodities. Shipment of cottonseed and soybean oils from the State of Sao Paulo was prohibited on February 10.

COLOMBIA'S AGRICULTURAL BANK EXPANDS ACTIVITIES

The Caja Agraria, major financial institution for aiding agricultural development in Colombia, is rapidly expanding its highly diversified program in an effort to increase agricultural output. Expanded activities relate to seed development, livestock production, supervised agricultural credit, colonization, parcelization, rural housing, irrigation, and agricultural supply.

The bank plans to import large quantities of agricultural supplies to be sold by its agricultural supply stores throughout Colombia. These stores sell directly to farmers at reasonable prices.

WEST GERMANY INVITES ADDITIONAL IMPORTS OF FROZEN VEGETABLES

An import tender for an additional $238,000 (DM 1 million) worth of frozen vegetables has been published by West Germany. Applications for import licenses must be submitted by the German importer by May 16, and the customs clearance deadline is May 31, 1960.

This tender extends the one issued for the same products on December 21, 1959.

RAINS REDUCE 1960 AUSTRALIAN DRIED VINE-FRUIT PACK

Rains and high humidity in the latter part of February have caused heavy losses in the 1960 Australian dried vine-fruit pack.

Trade sources now estimate the 1960 sultana pack at about 55,000 short tons. The 1959 pack was 75,300 tons, and average (1953-57) production is 65,900 tons. Quality of this year's sultana pack is also expected to be substantially lower than in recent years, with the bulk of production falling in the lower grades.

The 1960 dried currant pack is unofficially estimated at roughly 8,000 short tons, in comparison with 12,600 tons in 1959 and an average of 14,400 tons.

Production of Lexia raisins is also reported to be very small, with no exports in prospect.

Sales of sultanas and currants to the United Kingdom are expected to reflect this season's smaller production and the attempt to maintain exports to other markets. According to Australian sources, sultana shipments to the United Kingdom are not expected to exceed 11,000 short tons. Effective February 23, the sale of 1959 sultanas still uncommitted (about 8,000 short tons) in the United Kingdom was suspended until the new-crop production position became clearer. Even with these stocks and the projected exports, the 1960 sale of Australian sultanas in the United Kingdom will probably be about 12,000 tons below usual. (The average of 1954-58 Australian sultana exports to the United Kingdom was 31,500 tons.)

However, the Australian trade anticipates fairly normal sales of sultanas and currants to areas usually dependent on Australian fruit, such as New Zealand, East Africa, and Pacific destinations. Also, newly developed Australian markets--including Japan and The West Indies--are expected to be supplied with maximum quantities. Shipments to Japan are of course subject to the Japanese exchange allocation.

The Canadian market requirements are expected to be smaller than last year as a considerable quantity of Australian fruit is reportedly still on hand. Nevertheless, it appears that the Australians will attempt to meet these requirements as far as possible.

Although the reduction in 1960 Australian dried vine-fruit production may improve prices in the U.K. market, the Australian trade feels that large, available supplies of Mediterranean fruit will hold prices at a relatively low level.

CHAD'S EXPORT TRADE MAINLY AGRICULTURAL

The Foreign Agricultural Service is now receiving trade statistics from Chad, an autonomous republic within the French Community. The country was formerly a province of French Equatorial Africa.

Latest available statistics, as published in the official Bulletin Mensuel de Statistique, show that in 1958 agricultural exports worth $23 million made up 95 percent of Chad's total exports.

Chief agricultural exports were 28,000 metric tons of cotton lint (equivalent to 129,000 bales of 480 pounds net) worth nearly $20 million; 62,000 cattle worth $1½ million; and meats, hides and skins, and peanuts. France took 85 percent of all exports (agricultural and nonagricultural), Nigeria 9 percent, and the Belgian Congo and Cameroun 2 percent each.

Agricultural imports, valued at $6 million, were 21 percent of all imports. Main agricultural imports included $2 million worth of sugar; $1.2 million in beer and wine; $.8 million tea; and $.4 million each for wheat flour and kola nuts. Chief suppliers of agricultural and nonagricultural products were France (53 percent), Netherlands West Indies (8 percent), West Germany and the Belgian Congo (5 percent each), and the United States (4 percent).

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